

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending in the application. The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By Robert E. Goozner #42,593
for Raymond C. Stewart, #21,066

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

R. Goozner
RCS/REG:jls
0446-0165PUS1
Attachment(s)

(Rev. 02/12/2004)